

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Speech

By

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**Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to address you today at the opening of the High Level Segment of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to welcome Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to the Commission.

As you know, we are gathered here to take action on solutions to the pressing issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

This session of the Commission on Sustainable Development is the culmination of two years work in which a thorough review and assessment of progress made on achieving the sustainable development goals of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in these areas was made. Preparatory work was undertaken in February/March of this year that has enabled us to focus on concrete actions, solutions and policies during this session.

There have been important inter-sessional activities that contributed to the sharing of lessons learned and best practices, and we appreciate these efforts. We have also gathered best practices and case studies into a working matrix, and have noted the many new commitments and actions that have been announced by participants during this session of the Commission.

We are also grateful for the active participation in the work of the Commission by the Major Groups, and their commitment to taking action on these issues. We have also heard from agencies and programmes of the United Nations working on these issues.

Taken as a whole, work undertaken for this session of the CSD highlights its unique strengths and that taking an integrated, balanced approach that focuses on inter-linkages, cross-cutting issues and co-benefits, can succeed in adopting policy options aimed at expediting implementation on the ground.

**Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Energy for sustainable development encompasses a complex set of topics that are central to our ability to meet the goals set out in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Today, 1.6 billion people do not have access to electricity; 2.4 billion people do not have access to energy for modern cooking and heating. Practical solutions for meeting the energy access challenge will not only improve their well-being but will contribute to achieving sustainable developments and all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As we well know, a wide range of energy sources are needed to meet current and future energy demand, and fossil fuels will remain dominant in the energy mix for some time to come. This makes promoting energy

efficiency, utilizing new and cleaner energy technologies and ensuring that technology is transferred and diffused all the more important for achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection -- which together constitute the three pillars of sustainable development. Energy use is necessary for economic and social development, and we can use energy in ways that minimize adverse impacts on air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. Following decisions taken at Johannesburg the CSD has also explored ways to diversify our energy mix. Concrete actions and policies in these areas often have co-benefits -- positive impacts on all themes under consideration at this session.

Industrial development can be the driving force behind a broad and sustained improvement in living standards. Government investment and policy can play a vital role in addressing aspects that often impede industrial development, including improving education opportunities for the workforce, enhancing infrastructure, providing private risk-taking incentives and addressing problems in coordinating investments across interdependent activities. Action by the international community could also help developing countries overcome such obstacles.

Progress on the trade agenda could help developing countries gain greater market access for their industrial goods. Building capacities to respond to opportunities which already exist and resisting pressures to revert to more protectionist policies are also important.

**Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Taking action on energy and industrial development can yield direct benefits for air pollution and climate change. Recent scientific reports and media attention to these issues have raised our awareness of the potential challenges of ignoring the need for concrete policy actions and measures. There have been successes by the international community in curbing air pollution and emission of pollutants, and these can point the way to actions and policies that we might now undertake. Local air pollution remains a challenge for many developing country urban areas, and in some cases regional and international action are indeed appropriate.

We have deliberated on how many developing countries are now feeling some impacts of climate change and how taking action on adaptation can promote sustainable development. The international community can further contribute to these actions by further supporting developing countries for capacity building on adaptation.

We are pleased to note that the Secretary General has taken initiatives to highlight the importance of the issues on our agenda. His leadership on air pollution and climate change issues lend support to intergovernmental processes, including the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

It is now my honor to introduce the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

